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# **News Release**

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## **Bloomington man sentenced for distributing cocaine**

A 27-year-old Bloomington man was sentenced yesterday in federal court for distributing cocaine base, commonly known as crack cocaine.

On Sept. 30 in St. Paul, United States District Court Judge Richard Kyle sentenced Kevin Lydell Brown Jr. to 135 months in prison and five years supervised release on one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base and one count of possession of a firearm by a felon. Brown was indicted on Feb. 5, and pleaded guilty on June 10.

According to his plea agreement, Brown knowingly and intentionally possessed with intent to distribute approximately 246 grams of cocaine base on Jan. 5. Brown also admitted that on Jan. 5 he possessed a .9-millimeter, semi-automatic pistol. Brown was convicted of assault in Hennepin County in 2007.

The 246 grams of cocaine base were found packaged in 1-ounce quantities inside a backpack, the plea agreement states, and the pistol had one round in the chamber and was loaded with a magazine containing eight rounds.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavit, the Bloomington Police Department responded to a domestic assault call at an apartment on Jan. 5. A witness told them that Brown had just committed an assault and was in the apartment. Officers also learned that Brown had a handgun.

When police entered the apartment, they found Brown, along with quantities of marijuana, crack cocaine and cash on the bed. Additional crack cocaine, a handgun and cash were also found in an open backpack.

Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant that directly affects the brain, and crack cocaine is the free-base form of the drug. This form comes in a rock crystal that can be heated and its vapors smoked. The term "crack" refers to the crackling sound heard when it is heated.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Bloomington Police Department and the DEA, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracy L. Perzel.